

Amendments to the claims

1. (Currently Amended) A *S. clavuligerus* microorganism comprising DNA from which SEQ ID NO:1 has been disrupted or deleted ~~corresponding to one or more open reading frames essential for 5S clavam biosynthesis, wherein said open reading frames are disrupted or deleted~~ such that the production of 5S clavams by said *S. clavuligerus* is reduced and clavulanic acid production is at least maintained when compared with a *S. clavuligerus* ~~parent strain comprising SEQ ID NO:1~~ which has not had the relevant open reading frames been disrupted or deleted., ~~wherein the open reading frames are selected from:~~

- a) ~~*evm6para*~~ (SEQ ID NO:1);
- b) ~~*evm7para*~~ (SEQ ID NO:2);
- c) ~~*evm6para*~~ and ~~*evm6*~~ (SEQ ID NO:5); and
- d) ~~*evm7para*~~ and ~~*evm7*~~ (SEQ ID NO:6).

2 (Currently Amended) A *S. clavuligerus* microorganism comprising DNA from which SEQ ID NO:1 and one or more of: SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:10, and SEQ ID NO:11 have been disrupted or deleted ~~corresponding to one or more open reading frames essential for 5S clavam biosynthesis, wherein said open reading frames are disrupted or deleted~~ such that the production of 5S clavams by said *S. clavuligerus* is reduced and clavulanic acid production is at least maintained when compared with a *S. clavuligerus* ~~parent strain~~ which has not had the relevant said open reading frames disrupted or deleted, ~~wherein the open reading frames are selected from:~~

- a) ~~*evm6para*~~ and one or more of ~~*evm1*~~ (SEQ ID NO:7), ~~*evm2*~~ (SEQ ID NO:8), ~~*evm3*~~ (SEQ ID NO:9), ~~*evm4*~~ (SEQ ID NO:10), ~~*evm5*~~ (SEQ ID NO:11), ~~*evm6*~~, ~~*evm7*~~ or ~~*evm7para*~~;
- b) ~~*evm7para*~~ and one or more of ~~*evm1*~~, ~~*evm2*~~, ~~*evm3*~~, ~~*evm4*~~, ~~*evm5*~~, ~~*evm6*~~, ~~*evm7*~~ or ~~*evm6para*~~.

Claims 3-20: Cancelled.